

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (original) A game ball comprising:
2 a casing having a laced region; and
3 a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing, the lacing having an
4 exposed surface, at least a portion of the exposed surface of the lacing having a pebbled
5 texture.

1 2. (original) The game ball of claim 1, wherein the entire exposed surface
2 of the lacing includes the pebbled texture.

1 3. (original) The game ball of claim 1, wherein the pebbled texture
2 comprises a plurality of spaced apart pebble-like projections.

1 4. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of
2 projections ~~are~~ consist of any combination of at least two shapes selected from the
3 group consisting of irregularly shaped pebble-like projections, hemi-spherically shaped
4 projections, generally oval shaped projections, generally triangular shaped projections,
5 generally square shaped projections, generally rectangular shaped projections,
6 generally diamond shaped projections, generally pentagon-shaped projections, other
7 polygonal shaped projections, conical projections, frustoconical projections, cylindrical
8 projections, pyramid-shaped projections, and cubic projections, ~~and combinations~~
9 thereof.

1 5. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections
2 are arranged in a generally evenly spaced pattern across at least a portion of the
3 exposed surface.

1 6. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections
2 are randomly arranged across at least a portion of the exposed surface.

1 7. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections
2 are generally of equal size.

1 8. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections
2 include projections of two or more different sizes.

1 9. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein each of the pebble-like
2 projections has a maximum length and a maximum width, and wherein the maximum
3 length and the maximum width define an aspect ratio of within 0.2 and 5.0.

1 10. (original) The game ball of claim 9, wherein the aspect ratio is within
2 0.33 and 3.0.

1 11. (original) The game ball of claim 4 wherein the lacing includes at least
2 one longitudinally extending segment and a plurality of transversely extending
3 segments, wherein the plurality of projections on the longitudinally extending segment
4 have a first shape, and wherein the plurality of projections on the transversely
5 extending segment have a second shape.

1 12. (original) The game ball of claim 4, wherein the entire exposed surface
2 of the lacing includes a plurality of pebble-like projections.

1 13. (original) The game ball of claim 4, wherein the lacing further
2 comprises an inner substrate and an outer layer, wherein the outer layer includes the
3 exposed surface, and wherein the inner substrate is formed from one or more materials
4 selected from the group consisting of a woven cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane
5 impregnated cloth, at least one nylon strand, at least one polyester strand, a metal wire,
6 a plastic, a vinyl, a polymer, a latex, a rope, a leather strip and a combination thereof.

1 14. (original) The game ball of claim 12 wherein the outer layer is made of
2 an outer material selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a

3 dry process polyurethane, a coagulated polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, a
4 rubber, a polymeric material, an elastomeric material, and a combination thereof.

1 15. (canceled) A game ball comprising:
2 a casing having a laced region; and
3 a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing, the lacing having an
4 exposed surface and a plurality of spaced-apart projections extending over at least a
5 portion of the exposed surface, the spaced-apart projections defining a plurality of
6 valleys, the projections having a height of between 0.002 and 0.250 inches.

1 16. (canceled) The game ball of claim 15, wherein the projections are
2 pebble-like projections.

1 17. (canceled) The game ball of claim 16, wherein the height of the pebble-
2 like projections range between 0.003 and 0.100 inches.

1 18. (canceled) The game ball of claim 16, wherein the pebble-like
2 projections have a height of at least 0.004 inches.

1 19. (canceled) The game ball of claim 16, wherein the pebble-like
2 projections have a height of at least 0.005 inches.

1 20. (canceled) The game ball of claim 16, wherein the pebble-like
2 projections have a height of at least 0.010 inches.

1 21. (canceled) The game ball of claim 16, wherein the entire exposed
2 surface of the lacing includes the pebble-like projections.

1 22. (canceled) The game ball of claim 16, wherein the plurality of pebble-
2 like projections are selected from the group consisting of irregularly shaped pebble-like
3 projections, hemi-spherically shaped pebble-like projections, generally oval shaped

4 pebble-like projections, generally triangular shaped pebble-like projections, generally
5 square shaped pebble-like projections, generally rectangular shaped pebble-like
6 projections, generally diamond shaped pebble-like projections, generally pentagon-
7 shaped pebble-like projections, other polygonal shaped pebble-like projections,
8 generally conical pebble-like projections, generally frustoconical pebble-like
9 projections, generally cylindrical pebble-like projections, generally pyramid-shaped
10 pebble-like projections, generally cubic pebble-like projections, and combinations
11 thereof.

1 23. (canceled) The game ball of claim 16, wherein the plurality of pebble-
2 like projections are arranged in a generally evenly spaced pattern across at least a
3 portion of the exposed surface.

1 24. (canceled) The game ball of claim 16, wherein the plurality of pebble-
2 like projections are randomly arranged across at least a portion of the exposed surface.

1 25. (canceled) The game ball of claim 16, wherein each of the pebble-like
2 projections has a maximum length and a maximum width, and wherein the maximum
3 length and the maximum width define an aspect ratio of within 0.2 and 5.0.

1 26. (canceled) The game ball of claim 25, wherein the aspect ratio is within
2 0.33 and 3.0.

1 27. (canceled) The game ball of claim 15, wherein the plurality of
2 projections are spaced apart by a plurality of valleys, and wherein each valley has a
3 width of between 0.005 and 0.250 inches.

1 28. (canceled) The game ball of claim 15, wherein each valley has a width
2 of between 0.008 and 0.100 inches.

1 29. (canceled) The game ball of claim 15, wherein the valleys have a
2 transverse cross-sectional shape selected from the group consisting of generally U-
3 shaped, generally V-shaped, generally hemi-spherically shaped, irregularly shaped and
4 combinations thereof.

1 30. (canceled) A game ball comprising:
2 a casing having a laced region; and
3 a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing, the lacing having an
4 exposed surface, at least a portion of the exposed surface of the lacing having a set of
5 markings generally configured to be a generally two-dimensional simulation of a
6 pebbled texture.

1 31. (canceled) The game ball of claim 30, wherein the entire exposed
2 surface of the lacing includes the markings.

1 32. (canceled) The game ball of claim 30, wherein the markings are
2 selected from the group consisting of irregularly shaped markings, generally circular
3 markings, generally oval markings, generally triangular markings, generally square
4 markings, generally rectangular markings, generally diamond shaped markings,
5 generally pentagon-shaped markings, other polygonal shaped markings, and
6 combinations thereof.

1 33. (canceled) The game ball of claim 30, wherein markings are arranged in
2 a generally evenly spaced pattern across at least a portion of the exposed surface.

1 34. (canceled) The game ball of claim 30, wherein the markings are
2 randomly arranged across at least a portion of the exposed surface.

1 35. (canceled) The game ball of claim 30, wherein the markings are
2 generally of equal size.

1 36. (canceled) The game ball of claim 30, wherein the markings include
2 projections of two or more different sizes.

1 37. (canceled) A game ball comprising:
2 a casing having a laced region; and
3 a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing, the lacing including an
4 outer material and an inner substrate coupled to the outer material, the outer material
5 having an exposed surface that is compressible, resilient, and tactile, the outer material
6 having a density of between 0.2 and 1.3 gr/cm³ and a durometer of between 10 and 75
7 on a Shore A hardness scale,

1 38. (canceled) The game ball of claim 37, wherein the inner substrate
2 includes an intermediate material and at least one strand of high tensile strength
3 material.

1 39. (canceled) The game ball of claim 38, wherein at least one of the
2 intermediate material and the strand of high tensile strength material has a density that
3 is greater than the density of the outer material.

1 40. (canceled) The game ball of claim 38, wherein the intermediate material
2 has a durometer value on the Shore A hardness scale that is greater than the durometer
3 value of the outer material.

1 41. (canceled) The game ball of claim 37, wherein the outer material has a
2 durometer value on the Shore A hardness scale of within the range of 20 to 70.

1 42. (canceled) The game ball of claim 37, wherein the outer material has a
2 density of between 0.35 to 0.65 gr/cm³.

1 43. (canceled) The game ball of claim 37, wherein the outer material has a
2 density of between 0.2 to 0.4 gr/cm³.

1 44. (canceled) The game ball of claim 37, wherein the outer material has a
2 density of between 0.55 to 0.90 gr/cm³.

1 45. (canceled) The game ball of claim 37, wherein the intermediate material
2 is selected from the group consisting of a vinyl, a plastic, other polymers, a leather, a
3 cloth, a rubber, an elastomer, and combinations thereof.

1 46. (canceled) The game ball of claim 38, wherein the at least one strand of
2 high tensile strength material is selected from the group consisting of a nylon strand, a
3 polyester strand, a fiber, a wire, a polymer, and combinations thereof.

1 47. (canceled) The game ball of claim 37 wherein the outer material has a
2 modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 110 kg/cm² and a tensile strength between 450
3 and 600 kg/cm².

1 48. (canceled) The game ball of claim 37 wherein the outer material is
2 selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a dry process
3 polyurethane, a coagulated polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, a rubber, a
4 polymeric material, an elastomeric material, and a combination thereof.

1 49. (canceled) The game ball of claim 37 wherein at least a portion of the
2 exposed surface includes a pebbled texture.

1 50. (canceled) The game ball of claim 49, wherein the pebbled texture
2 comprises a plurality of pebble-like projections selected from the group consisting of
3 irregularly shaped pebble-like projections, hemi-spherically shaped pebble-like
4 projections, generally oval shaped pebble-like projections, generally triangular shaped
5 pebble-like projections, generally square shaped pebble-like projections, generally
6 rectangular shaped pebble-like projections, generally diamond shaped pebble-like
7 projections, generally pentagon-shaped pebble-like projections, other polygonal shaped

8 pebble-like projections, generally conical pebble-like projections, generally
9 frustoconical pebble-like projections, generally cylindrical pebble-like projections,
10 generally pyramid-shaped pebble-like projections, generally cubic pebble-like
11 projections, and combinations thereof.

1 51. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 irregularly shaped pebble-like projections.

1 52. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 hemi-spherically shaped projections.

1 53. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 generally oval shaped projections.

1 54. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 generally triangular shaped projections.

1 55. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 generally square shaped projections.

1 56. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 generally rectangular shaped projections.

1 57. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 generally diamond shaped projections.

1 58. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 generally pentagon-shaped projections.

1 59. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 polygonal shaped projections.

1 60. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 conical projections.

1 61. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 frustoconical projections.

1 62. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 cylindrical projections.

1 63. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 pyramid-shaped projections.

1 64. (new) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections are
2 cubic projections